



KENYA POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
SPEECH BY
THE CHANCELLOR, DR. JOSEPH WANJUI, CBS
DURING THE GRADUATION CEREMONY
ON FRIDAY 18TH NOVEMBER, 2011

- The Minister for Higher Education Science and Technology (Hon. Prof. Margaret Kamar);
- The Permanent Secretary Ministry of Higher Education Science and Technology (Prof. Crispus Kiamba);
- The Chairman of Council (Mr. Zebedeyo Bukania)
- Chairman of Council, University of Nairobi (Mr. John Simba)
- The Vice-Chancellor (Prof. George Magoha);
- Members of Council, the Kenya Polytechnic University College;
- Members of Council, University of Nairobi;
- The Principal, the Kenya Polytechnic University College (Prof. Francis Aduol);
- Staff of Kenya Polytechnic University College;
- Graduands;
- Students;

Distinguished Guests;

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Allow me to begin by congratulating our graduands for running the race and completing successfully their studies. The successful completion of university studies is usually an important mark in the life of any individual; the qualification, whether degree, certificate, or diploma, is a demonstration that the holder has attained a new level of knowledge and expertise and that one is ready to cope with higher professional responsibilities. It takes great efforts and dedication to achieve this feat. Congratulations!

As you step out of the gates of this great institution, I impress upon you to remember our motto; “Education and Training for the Real World”. The knowledge and skills that have been imparted on you should be translated in improving technological spaces in Kenya and the rest of the world. Your individual and collective contribution should be felt in the socio-economic development of this country, but in particular in this country’s agenda of Vision 2030.

You should feel confident that your knowledge and skills comprise valuable ingredients required for development of this nation and I challenge you not to keep your critical thoughts to yourself but to share these with your peers in appropriate forums. I look forward to hearing about your contributions to society as confirmation that the Kenya Polytechnic University College got it right in the training imparted to you while you were here. In whatever you do however, always remember that you will be carrying the name of this institution with you, and hence you will be expected to conduct yourself with the dignity befitting a graduate of an institution such as this.

Behind the achievements of our graduands are always the combined efforts of a team of able lecturers and the management. I would like to take this opportunity to salute the lecturers who

have continued to offer academic mentorship to our students with much dedication. With relatively limited resources, the Council and Management of the University College have continued to strive to provide an environment conducive for academic work and professional training. The fact that, in the face of all this, you have still been able to produce quality graduates is indeed commendable.

Ladies and Gentlemen!

It is now four years since Kenya Polytechnic was elevated to a University College. As your Chancellor, I am convinced the institution has progressively instituted necessary policies, management structures, programmes and personnel that should increase your chances of being found prepared to run on your own, as a fully fledged University. I am advised that the Commission for Higher Education will soon be conducting an assessment of the institution to confirm readiness of the institution to be elevated to a fully fledged university. I trust that the institution will be found ready to begin the journey of a university of technology prepared to contribute to the technological development of this country at the highest level.

As part of the effort to prepare this institution for its future status as a university of technology, the Government has continued to make resources available for the expansion of infrastructure of the institution. The latest in this is the modernization of the engineering workshops with equipment worth more than KShs. 500 million. I am also aware that plans are under way to construct new tuition blocks which will provide more expanded space for teaching, laboratory, and studios. We feel honoured with these investments and would like to assure the government that the new facilities shall be fully exploited in the preparation of our students to fit in within the technological world that we desire to build in this country.

To our continuing students, you are among the very few in this country who have been lucky enough to secure an opportunity to learn at this institution. I urge you to make the best of this opportunity and strive to be the best you can be; first as a citizen and secondly as a professional. Time wasted in non productive engagements is lost and cannot be recovered. Always remember that the root of any success is discipline and order and to this extent I would like to urge you to always strive to be a good example to your peers. A culture of discipline will be of great value in making you competitive in the employment market on completion of your studies.

To our distinguished parents, we appreciate your partnership with us. The Kenya Polytechnic University College has a few challenges which many of you will be aware of. In the current setting, we lack student accommodation facilities of our own. We have continued to ask our students to find private accommodation within the city as has been the tradition in this institution for many years. We wish to thank you for your understanding in providing for your sons and daughters to stay in privately managed hostels.

Finally, may I thank our esteemed guests and parents for joining us on this auspicious occasion in celebrating the success of our students. Your presence in this graduation is a great contribution to its success. I wish you safe journey to your next destinations at the end of this ceremony.

Thank You.